

As founder of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, I invite all of our colleagues to join our caucus and help protect America's children.

During the 105th Congress, a family in the Ninth Congressional District of Texas experienced an unthinkable tragedy. Laura Kate Smither, a 12-year-old, was abducted and brutally murdered. In Laura's name, the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children was founded. What Laura's dreadful tragedy has taught us is that we must do more to protect our children.

As a society, our efforts to prevent crimes against children have not kept pace with the increasing vulnerability of our young citizens. Please join this very important caucus, if you have not already, and all of our new Members, please do so quickly. You have a letter coming to you today or tomorrow. Our children, our grandchildren, our nieces and nephews are counting on you to give them a voice in Washington.

□ 1015

TAX RELIEF AND FRIVOLOUS LAWSUIT REFORM

(Mr. GRAVES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I want to urge my colleagues to focus on returning more Americans to work. Although our economy continues to grow, I believe we should accelerate the economic recovery to help get more Americans back to work as soon as possible by focusing on two priorities, tax relief designed to get Americans working again and frivolous lawsuit reform. High taxes continue to be a burden on American families. Now is the time to accelerate the tax relief we passed last Congress, provide incentives to businesses to invest in new workers, and provide fair investor tax relief to boost our economic recovery.

We also look for fairness in the legal system. Frivolous lawsuits not only clog our court systems, but they cause higher prices for consumers and threaten robust job creation. As a result, too many businesses, especially small businesses, are investing too much money and paying excessive and frivolous punitive damages and not enough money invested in health care benefits for workers and new job creation. We must protect the rights of individuals who have been wronged, but we should not permit frivolous lawsuits at the expense of the American worker and consumer.

Frivolous lawsuit reform and tax relief are the key to healthy economic recovery and job creation. The sooner we act, the faster we can begin to get Americans back to work.

A NEW VISION FOR THE ECONOMY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, like many people across eastern Indiana, I was shocked and dismayed yesterday to learn of the complete elimination of over 400 manufacturing jobs from Anderson, Indiana. It is therefore altogether fitting that we would as our first priority in Congress in this majority, Mr. Speaker, pass an extension of unemployment benefits to help Americans like those in Anderson who will be beset by these layoffs. I also applaud the President of the United States, who outlined a jobs package yesterday that I believe is a good start.

But it is written, Mr. Speaker, that without a vision the people perish, and I would paraphrase by saying that without a vision economies perish as well. I would challenge this Congress and leadership in my own party to not just be content, Mr. Speaker, with unemployment insurance extensions, helping those that are laid off, or passing legislation that simply alleviates a recession. We need a new vision for an economy that is abundant and growing at historic levels. We need to bring additional tax relief that will unleash the entrepreneurial energy of the American economy as never before, and part of that must be tax relief designed at encouraging and promoting capital formation.

CLONING BAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, recently a religious group called the Raelians announced that they had cloned a human being, and despite all the press coverage they have received most observers are convinced this is a hoax. But true or not, this episode underscores the fact that human cloning is no longer limited to B movie science fiction. The technology exists. It may take hundreds of tries and it may result in dozens of horribly mutated human embryos and the violation of every standard of ethics and decency, but human cloning is very close to happening.

Congress must act before it is too late. We need to pass a comprehensive human cloning ban into law immediately. The House did its job last year, passed a bill that died in the Senate. Now both Houses of Congress need to pass a comprehensive cloning ban. We need to stop this horror before it happens.

The bill is being introduced today by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON). I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important bill, and I urge the House to pass it as soon as possible. It is still not too late for us to act.

HONORING JOE FOSS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow afternoon in Scottsdale, Arizona at 2 o'clock Mountain Standard Time, there will be a memorial service held for the man described as the ace of aces, a genuine hero, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Joe Foss.

Joe Foss accomplished much in his life. Indeed Tom Brokaw in his book *The Greatest Generation* devoted an entire chapter to the life of Joe Foss. It was a remarkable life, not only in wartime but in winning the peace. A two-term governor of South Dakota, the first commissioner of the American Football League, president of the National Rifle Association, a television personality in his own right, and finally in retirement Joe Foss relocated to Arizona.

It was my privilege to know this great and good man, this genuine American hero who despite the reputation of fliers had none of the swagger but all of the humility and humble nature that a man could possess.

The story goes once a journalist asked Joe Foss about his many earthly accomplishments, and Joe said "Yeah, I guess I have done a lot of things but nothing compares to the day when I met the Lord." Now Joe Foss is with the Lord, and I know the people of Arizona along with the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JANKLOW), the people of South Dakota, and all of America remember and revere this great American. At ease, Joe, rest in peace.

REMOVING THE TAX ON DIVIDENDS

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, President Bush this week announced plans to make sure that in the tax proposals that this Congress will address that as part of that tax package we will not tax dividends, and I want to stand up and say how proud I am of what the President is doing because it is furthering the commitment that I believe this House of Representatives should have as well as the President to where we do not tax savings or investment in America.

I believe as the vigorous debate takes place across this country and in this body we will find out that this will be good for people who will be able to save money, save money, and not have it taxed in between that period of time every year for tax purposes but will see their savings grow. I am proud of what this President is doing. I plan to support not only his tax bill but the things the President does, and I offer a hearty congratulations to the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

MERCURY IN VACCINATIONS

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the